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DEPARTMENT FOR NEA/ARP AND ISN/CTR

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/12/2017
TAGS: PARM PINR PINS PREF PREL PTER IZ MU
SUBJECT: OMAN WILL CONSIDER PARTICIPATION IN IRAQI WMD
SCIENTIST REDIRECTION PROGRAM

REF: STATE 80326

Classified By: Ambassador Gary A. Grappo for Reasons 1.4 (b, d)

- 11. (U) This is an action request. Please see paragraph 3.
- ¶2. (S) The Ambassador delivered reftel information on June 11 to Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs Yusef bin Alawi and requested that the Omani government agree to accept Iraqi WMD/missile scientists for one-year professional development fellowships at USG expense. Bin Alawi replied that he agreed "in principle" that Oman should accept some of the identified scientists and said that the government would, accordingly, strongly consider participation in the program. He noted that he would have to discuss the issue with other Omani officials before confirming a positive response, however, and inquired about the number of scientists that proposed for temporary relocation in Oman. Bin Alawi also stated that Oman would need "comprehensive background information" on relocation candidates and emphasized that these individuals should have "strong professional qualifications" so that they could be properly placed at a university or other appropriate institution.
- ¶3. (S) Action Request: In response to bin Alawi's comments, post requests further guidance on the number of Iraqis proposed for relocation to Oman under the program. Post also requests background information and security assessment evaluation results that could be shared with the Omani government for each individual relocated to the Sultanate. The Omanis are especially interested in the Iraqis' professional qualifications so that they may be placed in an appropriate position. End Action Request.
- 14. (U) Post's contacts for the Iraqi scientist redirection program follow:
- -- Pol/Econ Chief Eric Carlson: CarlsonEJMS@state.sgov.gov (classified e-mail); CarlsonE2@state.gov (unclassified e-mail) -- Economic & EST Officer Brian Grimm: GrimmBM@state.sgov.gov (classified e-mail); GrimmBM@state.gov (unclassified e-mail) GRAPPO